

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078608

11

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----- 030065

R 072230Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, UR, US

SUBJECT: DISPATCH OF UNACCOMPANIED POUCHES

REF: LENINGRAD 0444

1. IN APPROACH TO MFA ON LENINGRAD RAIL POUCH PROBLEM, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW MINISTRY'S ATTENTION TO ARTICLE 18 OF CONSULAR CONVENTION, AND EMPHASIZE THAT "ALL ORDINARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, CERTAINLY INCLUDES THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL RAIL CONNECTIONS. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THIS LINE OF APPROACH PREFERABLE TO ENGAGING SOVIETS IN DIALOGUE OVER PURPORTED SOVIET-FINNISH AGREEMENT AND OTHER PERIPHERAL ISSUES THEY MAY RAISE.

2. FYI: SOVIETS REGULARLY USE NON-PROFESSIONAL COURIERS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO, AND DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING THEIR POUCHES AT AIRPORTS. THEREFORE SOME LEVERAGE EXISTS SHOULD LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW AUTHORITIES CONTINUE WITH UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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